

served upon parties so long as the deletions are clearly identified and generally described in the documents which are served. Upon motion, the Judge may direct that the withheld information be provided to other parties, subject to any appropriate protective order.

[61 FR 2683, Jan. 29, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 47247, July 18, 2002; 70 FR 29937, May 25, 2005]

§ 134.205 Motion for a more definite statement.

(a) *Procedure.* No later than 15 days after service of the petition or order to show cause, the respondent may file and serve a motion requesting a more definite statement of particular allegations in the petition.

(b) *Stay.* The filing and service of a motion for a more definite statement stays the time for filing and serving an answer or response. The Judge will establish the time for filing and serving an answer or response.

[67 FR 47247, July 18, 2002]

§ 134.206 The answer or response.

(a)(1) Except in a case involving a petition appealing from an SBA determination, a respondent must file and serve an answer within 45 days after the filing of a petition or the service of an order to show cause, except that in debt collection cases, answers are due within 30 days. For SBA Employee Disputes, see Standard Operating Procedure 37 71 02, available at www.sba.gov/library/soproom.html.

(2) The answer must contain the following:

(i) An admission or denial of each of the factual allegations contained in the petition or order to show cause, or a statement that the respondent denies knowledge or information sufficient to determine the truth of a particular allegation;

(ii) Any affirmative defenses; and

(iii) The name, address, telephone number, facsimile number, and signature of the respondent or its attorney.

(3) Allegations in the petition or order to show cause that are not answered in accordance with paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section will be deemed admitted unless injustice would occur.

(b) Upon the filing of a petition appealing from an SBA determination, the Judge or the AA/OHA will issue an order informing all known parties of the date the appeal was filed. The respondent must file and serve a response to such a petition within 45 days after the filing of such a petition. The response need not admit or deny the allegations in the petition but shall set forth the respondent's positions in support of the SBA determination. The response must also set forth the name, address, telephone number, facsimile number, and signature of the respondent or its attorney.

(c) If a petition or order to show cause is amended or if respondent is not properly served, the Judge will order the time to file an answer or response extended and will specify the date such answer or response is due. If respondent is not properly served with a petition appealing from an SBA determination, the Judge will issue an order directing that the petitioner serve respondent within a specified time and directing respondent to file and serve a response within 45 days after petitioner timely serves respondent in accordance with the order.

(d) If the respondent fails to timely file and serve an answer or response, that failure will constitute a default. Following such a default, the Judge may prohibit the respondent from participating further in the case. If SBA, as respondent to a petition appealing from an SBA determination, fails to timely file and serve its response or the administrative record (where required), the Judge will issue an order directing SBA to file and serve the administrative record by a specified date.

[67 FR 47247, July 18, 2002]

§ 134.207 Amendments and supplemental pleadings.

(a) *Amendments.* Upon motion, and under terms needed to avoid prejudice to any non-moving party, the Judge may permit the filing and service of amendments to pleadings. However, an amendment will not be permitted if it would cause unreasonable delay in the determination of the matter. The proposed amendment must be filed and served with the motion.

(b) *Supplemental pleadings.* Upon motion, and under terms needed to avoid prejudice to any non-moving party, the Judge may permit the filing and service of a supplemental pleading setting forth relevant transactions or occurrences that have taken place since the filing of the original pleading. The proposed supplemental pleading must be filed and served with the motion.

(c) *8(a) appeals.* In 8(a) program appeals, amendments to pleadings and supplemental pleadings will be permitted by the Judge only upon a showing of good cause.

(d) *Answer or response.* In an order permitting the filing and service of an amended or supplemented petition or order to show cause, the Judge will establish the time for filing and serving an answer or response.

[61 FR 2683, Jan. 29, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 47248, July 18, 2002]

§ 134.208 Representation in cases before OHA.

(a) A party may represent itself, or be represented by an attorney. A partner may represent a partnership; a member may represent a limited liability company; and an officer may represent a corporation, trust, association, or other entity.

(b) An attorney for a party who did not appear on behalf of that party in the party's first filing with OHA must file and serve a written notice of appearance.

(c) An attorney seeking to withdraw from a case must file and serve a motion for the withdrawal of his or her appearance.

[67 FR 47248, July 18, 2002]

§ 134.209 Requirement of signature.

Every written submission to OHA, other than evidence, must be signed by the party filing that submission, or by the party's attorney. By signing the submission, a party or its attorney attests that the statements and allegations in that submission are true to the best of its knowledge, and that the submission is not being filed for the purpose of delay or harassment.

§ 134.210 Intervention.

(a) *By SBA.* SBA may intervene as of right at any time in any case until 15 days after the close of record, or the issuance of a decision, whichever comes first.

(b) *By interested persons.* Any interested person may move to intervene at any time until the close of record by filing and serving a motion to intervene containing a statement of the moving party's interest in the case and the necessity for intervention to protect such interest. An interested person is any individual, business entity, or governmental agency that has a direct stake in the outcome of the appeal. The Judge may grant leave to intervene upon such terms as he or she deems appropriate.

[67 FR 47248, July 18, 2002]

§ 134.211 Motions.

(a) *Contents.* All motions must state the relief being requested, as well as the grounds and any authority for that relief.

(b) *Statement of whether motion is opposed.* Except when filing a motion to dismiss or a motion for summary decision, the moving party must make reasonable efforts before filing the motion to contact any non-moving party and determine whether it will oppose the motion and must state in the motion whether each non-moving party will oppose or not oppose the motion. If the moving party cannot determine whether a non-moving party will oppose the motion, the moving party must describe in the motion the efforts made to contact that non-moving party.

(c) *Response.* No later than 20 days after the service of a motion, all non-moving parties must serve and file a response or be deemed to have consented to the relief sought. Unless the Judge directs otherwise, the moving party will have no right to reply to a response, nor will oral argument be heard on the motion.

(d) *Service of orders.* OHA will serve upon all parties any written order issued in response to a motion.

(e) *Motion to dismiss.* A respondent may file a motion to dismiss any time before a decision is issued. If an answer